

Sounds good, but I am wondering how the word is being spread about these sessions. I am a former Ag Teacher, and although I am still in teaching, my focus is not ag.; however, I plug for it as often as I can. As an educator, I think a vision we should embrace is Ag Awareness. Easier said than done. I have heard, in numerous ways and through various venues that Americans typically want things now, they want it easily accomplished and when it comes to their food, many want it cheap and they do not want to know much (or perhaps they are just oblivious) about where it came from. This is often echoed, when talking to my students that are typically low- income and live in Sacramento. Furthermore, many simply do not have any ties to ag- not even a grandparent that once had a farm. It is a bit of history that is quickly diminishing in the minds of young people.

Another point that I think needs to be more "mainstream" is what the FARM BILL does for producers and why and that subsidies are just a small portion of the allocations of money associated with the Farm Bill.

As an Agriculturalist, I think we have to continue to be our own best advocates and improve our efficiency and continue to strive for Best/ Better management Practices and strive for sustainability in a global market (loaded- I know, but we have to keep our expectations high, I suppose).

I also am in favor of having a balance between privately owned "family farming" operations and I believe this is essential for America, let alone CA. I think some time, effort and MONEY should be focused on this, otherwise eventually we are going to be a state owned by the government (via big corporations).

Thanks for your time and keep me posted.

Sincerely,

Gina OConnor